

Sea level rising

Core samples, tide gauge readings, and most recently, satellite measurements tell us that over the past century, Global Mean sea level has risen by 4 to 8 inches.

The annual rate of sea level rising over the past 20 years has only been a total 0.13 inches a year, roughly twice the average speed of the past 80 years.

Rise in sea level is linked to three primary factors, all of them are linked to the biggest climate change problem, global warming.

Thermal expansion

Melting glaciers and ice caps

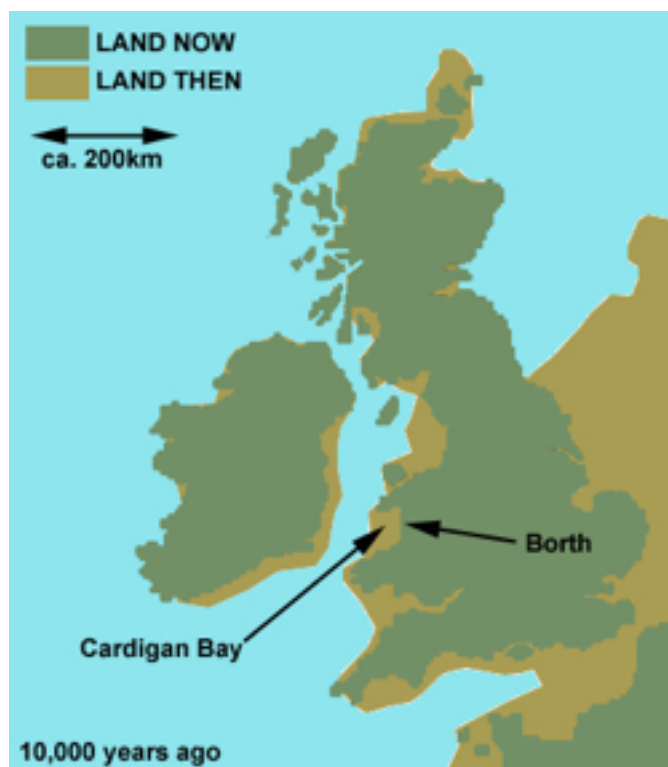
ice loss from greenland and west Antarctica

Consequences

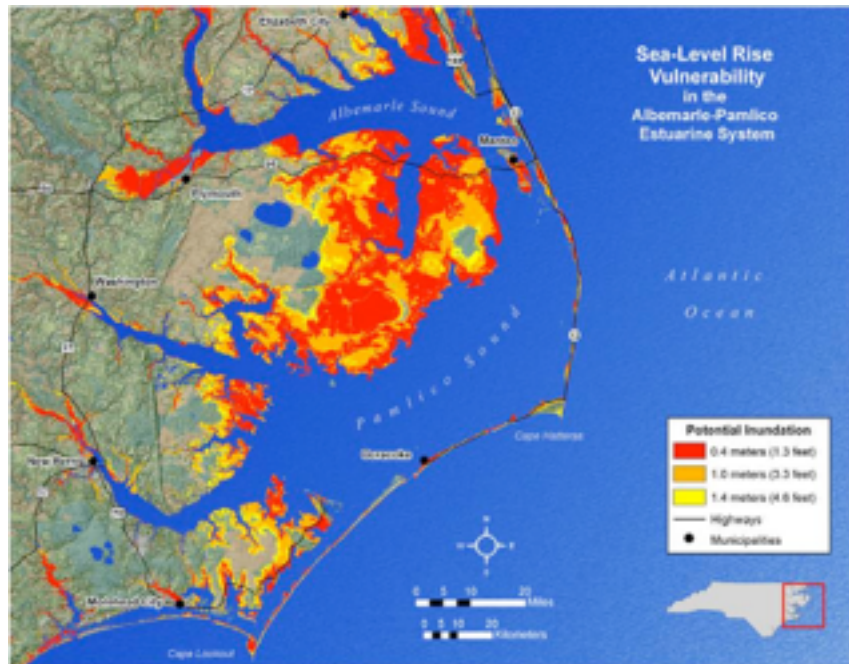
When sea level rise rapidly as they have been doing, even a small increase can have devastating effects on coastal habitats. As seawater reaches farther inland, it can cause destructive erosion, flooding of wetlands, contamination of aquifers and agricultural soils, and lost habitat for fish, birds, and plants.

How high will the sea level rise

Most of the predictions made say the warming of the planet (global warming) will continue and likely will speed up. Oceans will likely continue to rise as well, but predicting the amounts is an inexact science. A recent study says we can expect the oceans to rise up to 2.5 and 6.5 feet by 2100.



Although sea levels are rising, they have always been rising as has been seen in this image of Cardigan Bay 10,000 years ago.



As the image shows above that the potential sea level rise will be able to absorb part of the United states east coast.

Water Erosion

Rain splash

Rain may move soil directly: this is known as “rainsplash erosion”. This is only effective if the rain falls with sufficient intensity. If it does, then as the raindrops hit bare soil, their kinetic energy is able to detach and move soil particles a short distance .

Because the soil particles can only be moved a few centimetres at most by this process, its effects are solely onsite. Although considerable quantities of soil may be moved by rainsplash, it is all merely redistributed back over the surface of the soil (on steep slopes, however, there will be a most new downslope movement of splashed soil). A more descriptive term might be a rain splash redistribution.